

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1135

CLERK: ...first amendment to the bill, Senator Brown, AM2585.
(AM2585, Legislative Journal page 900.)

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The AM2585 is an amendment that's very consistent with LB 1135. It takes our current statutory language in terms of the requirements of...of interagency coordinating councils in the area of early childhood and collapses it into one council. Currently, we have the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Coordinating Committee, which was developed to advise us under the Child Care and Development Block Grant legis...federal legislation. We also have the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council that deals with Early Intervention Services for young children with disabilities. We have several other advisory committees within the Department of Health and Human Services and within the Department of Education that exist to advise about this area and...but they are not established in statute. Currently, the two agencies, the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, are trying to really work together much more effectively and to be much more effective in terms of coordination of services. One of the issues that they need in order to do that is to have the individuals who are doing advising at the table, all of the individuals. What has happened is, by virtue of having a number of different groups that...that are providing this coordination and advising the two departments there has been duplication and very often the appropriate people that need to be at the table for decisions to be made for the agencies to move forward may be serving on one of the other councils. And so this collapses our statutory language so that there is one interagency coordinating council in the area of early childhood. It was a recommendation from the Business Commission on Child Care Financing as a way to get us to be able to provide better coordination and be able to move forward with some initiatives that will help us to better serve young children who need out-of-home care. And I am bringing this...partly because prior to being in the Legislature I served...I helped draft, actually, both of the pieces of legislation that created the two councils that we're talking about right now, and I served as the Chair of the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Coordinating Committee, and I currently am a member of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating